

Roadside Review

Fall/Winter 2010 Issue 56

A quarterly newsletter of the
Missouri Department of Transportation's
Adopt-A-Highway and
Sponsor-A-Highway programs



MoDOT Turning Dirt Into Clean Cash

Employees in the St. Louis District are not only sweeping up debris on area highways and making them safer for motorists, but now they're helping the environment and saving the department tons of clean cash. Thanks to a dedicated sweeping crew and a new mobile screening unit, MoDOT has the potential to substantially reduce what goes in our urban landfills, while at the same time producing usable fill, and saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Trash and debris that accumulates on roads is not only an eyesore, but can be unsafe for motorists. That's why MoDOT crews have



The pile on the right is a debris pile before it's been screened and the pile on the left is after it has been screened and is ready for use as fill.

been sweeping some state-maintained streets for many years. Most of what was swept up was sent to the landfill at a cost of \$45 per ton.

"We found almost everything we sweep off the roadway can be recycled either into usable fill for projects or just for cash," said Becky Allmeroth, St. Louis District Maintenance engineer. "We're not only saving valuable resources and money, but we're helping the environment and making the most of what we have at the same time."

In March this year, crews started using a new mobile screening unit and worked with the Department of Natural Resources to approve the screened sweepings as usable fill, thereby reducing landfill debris and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in disposal costs. One cubic yard of sweepings weighs over one ton and thousands of cubic yards of sweepings are sent to landfills each year.

The new mobile screening unit can travel from building to building, working 40 hours a week screening the sweepings quickly and easily. Debris collected from the roadway is emptied from the sweeper, then screened by the mobile unit and the remaining material consists of dirt, gravel and grit for usable fill.

"Now up to 90 percent of what MoDOT sweeps up can be recycled and used back on various road operations, instead of going to the landfill," said Maintenance Superintendent Owen Hasson. "And we found something unique to do with our premium street sweepings."

Adopters: If you find recyclable material in your pickups, we encourage you to recycle it. Please remember you are not required to pick up litter on paved shoulders. We don't want you to be in harms way!

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

St. Joseph East Side Lions Club

It was 23 years ago that Missouri took up the Adopt-A-Highway program, and it was 23 years ago in 1987 that the St. Joseph East Side Lions Club adopted their first stretch of highway. The Lions Club was one of the very first AAH adopters in Buchanan County, and the man who signed the original agreement is still active with the group. Ken Beck,

senior marketing executive for Eagle Radio in St. Joseph, regularly puts on a vest and picks up trash.

To their credit, they adopted one mile of the busiest (and therefore most littered) sections of Interstate 29. When asked what their most "unusual" litter experience was, they



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MoDOT Clearing the Way for Winter Travel

Improved Winter Road Conditions Map Available at www.modot.org

As Missouri nights get cooler and the days grow shorter, MoDOT crews are preparing for the upcoming winter by stocking buildings with salt and beet juice and ensuring plows and crews are prepared for the first snowfall.

"This snow season, winter operations will run like a well-oiled machine," said Don Hillis, director of System Management. "Crews will tackle each storm with a specific plan based on the storm type. We will focus on keeping Missouri's roads safe and passable."

If motorists are unsure about the condition of the roads, they can check the Traveler Information Map on MoDOT's website that now includes weather radar imagery. Viewers can see what is happening and what is coming their way. New categories to better describe winter road conditions include the following: Closed, Covered, Partly Covered, Mostly Clear and Clear.

"Paying attention when driving and slowing down during bad weather should be common sense, but after a long season of warm weather we can all use a reminder," Hillis says. "We also want to remind motorists that although we're working hard to make roads safe and passable for motorists, drivers need to drive cautiously, pay extra attention and drive defensively."

MoDOT will focus on getting roads drivable in bad weather by treating the highest-traveled major roads and regionally important roads first until they are mostly clear. All the remaining less-traveled roads will be plowed to allow for safe travel concentrating on hills, curves and intersections. MoDOT crews will be using plows that can cover more roads in a single pass like TowPlows, wing plows and 14-foot plows.

The department has also developed a new rating system for storms, ranging from a Type 1 being the most severe with more than 12 inches of snow or more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of ice, down to a Type 5 that includes frost, flurries, freezing fog, blowing snow and refreeze. Crews

develop a specific plan based on the approaching storm type.

"We'll keep a close eye on our response on every storm, we will do our best with our resources and evaluate how we can improve," Hillis says. "The more efficiently we do our job this winter, the more funds we'll have for resurfacing our pavements next summer."

MoDOT also is putting more emphasis on calibrating salt spreader equipment to ensure all crews are putting down the right amount of salt at the right time. "Melting snow and ice is not just about putting out more and more salt," Hillis says. "You have to give the salt that is put out on the roads time to work."

MoDOT has more than 3,000 employees and more than 1,600 pieces of equipment ready to fight the winter storms. "Remember to give snowplows plenty of room to work, don't tailgate and try not to pass plows," Hillis says. "We want everyone to get home safely. Buckle up, and remember, when driving in ice and snow, take it slow."

For information on road conditions across the state, safe traveling tips and a diagram on driveway clearing techniques, visit www.modot.org or call 888-ASK MODOT. Recorded road-condition information is available at (800) 222-6400. ■



ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

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mentioned the lottery tickets they found discarded in 1988. Ironically, it included a winning ticket worth five dollars. The discovery was featured in St. Joseph's daily newspaper, the News-Press. In the caption, they encouraged other civic groups to "get involved" in the new highway litter pickup program.

In honor of their 23rd anniversary, MoDOT

went to their October breakfast meeting, and presented them with 12 litter pickers (hand-held grabbing tools). They have recently renewed their adoption for another three years, and we continue to be thrilled to have them as partners.

New Adopters

May 2010 - October 2010

May- 2010

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Zeta Lambda Chapt.
Breckenridge School District
Chris Harris, Agent State Farm
Cub Scout Pack 945 Walker Elementary School
Dedicated Associates of the Bethany Walmart
Delta Sigma Phi Alumni, St. Louis Chapter
Douglas County Democrats
Eaton
Emily, Abbi, James, Emily, Jon, Katie, Jacob & Ava Buhr
First Baptist Church North Kansas City
Greg & Rhonda Cautrell & Cole Sawyer
Hogle's Creek Lodge AF and AM Hermitage FFA Chapter
In Loving Memory of "Johnny Glade" "Papa John"
In Loving Memory of "Pokey Clark" by Clark Family
In Loving Memory of Chrissy Ewing
In Loving Memory of Destry Errol Sherman
In Loving Memory of Gary W. Hendrickson
In Loving Memory of Kenneth Hardy
In Loving Memory of Larry (Kettle) Coleman
In Loving Memory of Nancy Jean Walser
In Loving Memory of Our Son, Brother and Friend Nick Helton
In Loving Memory of Rev. Ray Fagg
In Loving Memory of Shari Andrea Zagar, Family and Friends
In Memory of Samuel Langley & John Spencer
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Chillicothe Lodge 91
Johnson County Democrats
New Hampton United Methodist Youth Group
PAL
SERPRO of Central and Southern Jefferson County
Sullivan County Memorial Hospital
Woodhurst Insurance Group

June- 2010

Big Spring RV Camp, Tube & Cabin Rental
Blackberry Creek & Retreat B&B
Bonhomme Township Federated Republican Women's Club
Boy Scout Troop 2858 and Stockton Lake Elks Lodge #2858
Camdenton High School Athletics
Camp Tuckaho Staff
Catron Fire Department
Congenital Heart Defects Families Association
Cripple Creek Rock Company Put it in a Can LLC
CSI Hardwood Floors, Put it in a Can LLC
Cub Scout Pack #69

Dawn Bradley
Eagle Rock Community Church ERCC
ERDCC Personnel Club
Five-O M/C South Central Chapter, Steel Horse Posse
Fraternal Order of Eagles #3948
Girl Scouts Service Unit 759
Goude-Herskind Beaver-Chandler Families
Howard "Doug Albin "Love" Howard Jason Micky
In Loving Memory of Arthur L. Belanger Jr., Wife, Debbie
In Loving Memory of Clint Overstreet
In Loving Memory of Harold R. McEntire & Satch & Betty McEntire
In Loving Memory of Jennifer Mae Lincoln, Jessica Lee Dees
In Loving Memory of Keith Donnell & Heather Donnell
In Loving Memory of Quincy Postmaster, Wilma L. Dull
In Loving Memory of Ricky Uehlin
In Loving Memory of Sherri K. Street, Loretta Ipock
In Memory of Charles Butch Gardner
In Memory of John Pursley Jr., Your Loving Family
JC Penney Store 920
Kindall Store of Olga
Kindred Spirit Animal Rescue Center, Inc.
Kingston 42 School
Lakewood Hills Homeowners Association
Lasalle Retreat Center
Legion Riders Chapter #82, Windsor, MO
Mona, Vie, Renee, Cipolla Distb., Put it in a Can LLC
RIP Jorden Jourdain, We Miss You Devon Barrett Family
Skidmore Volunteer Fire Department
Steve and Deborah Wilson
The Garden City Fall Festival Committee
The Nemes Family
The Victoria United Methodist Church & Victoria Community
Warrior Brotherhood Veterans M/C, Missouri

July - 2010

Arnold Auto Body and Glass
Centertown Antiques
East Perry County Cultural Alliance
Elm Point Animal Hospital
Employees of Kawasaki Maryville Plant
Ethical Society Mid Rivers
Fordland Community Betterment Association
Girl Scout Troop #8005
In Loving Memory of Andrew J. Throop "Andy"
In Loving Memory of Brock Ray Gaston
In Loving Memory of Cary J. Johnston

In Loving Memory of Cheryl E. Zachery
In Loving Memory of Don & Liz Shelby by Ron & Barb Shelby Family
In Loving Memory of Heidi Strodman
In Loving Memory of Kyle Scott Phelps by the Phelps Family
In Loving Memory of Lisa Marie Caradonna, Love You Babygirl
In Loving Memory of Michael T. Roberts
In Loving Memory of our Guardian Angel Cameron Tippetts
In Loving Memory, McKenzie R. Kisling "Kenzer"
In Memory of Stephen C. Hendrickson Jr., Forever Your Family
Jefferson FFA
Kaci Testerman
Lake Bloomers Garden Club
Lakeside Exteriors Incorporated
Lakewood Property Owners Association
McElroy Family
Mikey Creamer Family & Friends
Mizzou Medicine M.O.V.E.
Napoleon Clover Leaf 4-H Club
Ozark Kiwanis Club
St. Francois County Rotary Club
Summit Villa Assisted Living Home
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
The Meroney Family, John, Melissa, JD Shamus & Ciara
The Poland Family
The Powers Family
The Shepherd's Fold Ministry, Inc.
Tower Rock Vineyard & Winery

August - 2010

Adair County Drug Court Alumni
ALMOOS'T Heaven Bed and Breakfast
Always In Our Hearts, David T. Armstrong, DA Family & Friends
Bloomfield FFA
Central Methodist University
Chillicothe Student Council
Cotton Gardens
Dave's Taxidermy
Duly Baptist Church
Elm Spring Baptist Church
Family Career Community Leaders
Franklin County Drug & DWI Court Alumni
Freedom of Roadriders, For Local 42

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New Adopters

May 2010 - October 2010

Giles Ranch

Impact Church of St. Louis

In Loving Memory of Billy Ray Roderman, by Roderman Families

In Loving Memory of Bowser Miller, Miller-Ford Family

In Loving Memory of Grandparents O'Day, Powers & Williford

In Loving Memory of Janet Sue Richards

In Loving Memory of Jessica Nicole Pettengill

In Loving Memory of Kenneth O. & Mary M. Stevens

In Loving Memory of Kevin James Mullane, We Miss You

In Loving Memory of Larry James Crowder, Son, Grandson, Nephew

In Loving Memory of Megan Alyssa Eller, Family & Friends

In Loving Memory of Ryan Lee Smith

In Loving Memory of Tina Meyer and Vivian Ulbrich

In Loving Memory of Tom Marcum, Family and Friends

In Loving Memory of William "Bill" Ingram

In Loving Memory, Scott Givens, Forever Loved

In Loving Memory, Timothy P. Leavy Always In Our Hearts

In Memory of Family and Friends, Rustic Oak Cabin Steakhouse

In Memory of Joan & Terry Baker, Amber Entzel

King Solomon Lodge, Prince Hall F & M, Ft Leonard Wood, MO

Lake Professional Hearing Aid Center

Lex La-Ray Family Career Community Leaders

Liberty Driving School

Mackenzie Arnold and Vincent Arnold

Nestle Purina Petcare Company

Polk County Bike Club

Prince Hall Builders JA Walkes Youth #1, Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Rock House Church

THF Realty

UKHFI Temple 203, AEAONMS Oasis of St. Robert

Wayne's Handyman Service

William "Bill" Ingram

XI Zeta Chapter, Phi Thata Kappa, Jefferson College

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Psi Eta Zeta Chapter

September - 2010

Harley and Sarah Winfrey and Family

In Loving Memory of Carl Mann, Jr.

In Loving Memory of Grandparents O'Day Powers & Williford

In Loving Memory of Kendall Lewis Jones

In Loving Memory of Randy Ring, his Loving Family

In Loving Memory of Thomas R. Riffle

In Loving Memory of Tom Turner and Gene Cleveland

In Loving Memory, Aaron E. Bayless, Forever In Our Heart

In Loving Memory, Forever In Our Heart, Brian M. Wichmann

In Loving Memory, Jessica Merrill, It's All Good

Kirby, Norris and Dennis Families

Lake Professional Hearing Aid Center

McCollum Electrical and Plumbing

Nestle Purina Petcare Company

Rock House Church

The Crawford Family

The Strathmans, Kevin, Suzanne, Paul, Marquita, Alex, Koe, Lil

October - 2010

2 Lane Towing and Repair LLC

ALF Campers Chapter, Family Campers and Rvers

Alpha Sigma Alpha

Beta Alpha Psi, Kappa Nu Chapter, Truman State Univ.

Boy Scout Troop 390

BT Freedom Ladies, In Memory of James Ramsey

Canton FFA

Carpenter Floorlayers Local 1181

Cripple Creek Rock Company, Put it in a Can, LLC

David Lee Quessenberry

Delta Chi Fraternity

Essential Kneads Dayspa and Cafe LLC

Five-O Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

Hannibal Medical Campus

Humansville FCCLA

In Loving Memory of Alissa Deanna Goedecke Blanton

In Loving Memory of Barbara J. White

In Loving Memory of Camron Lee Bridges

In Loving Memory of David M. Watkins Sr. by Phyllis & Kids

In Loving Memory of Jesse James Crook, Sadly Missed Family

In Loving Memory of Justin Nade, Forever Your Family

In Loving Memory of Larry Morgan, Husband and Father

In Loving Memory of Mason A. Murray and Michael A. Bailey

In Loving Memory of Ron Atkins

In Loving Memory of Todd Kevin Schmitt, Kelsey Jo Schmitt

In Loving Memory, Hero David Wayne Embrey, Dad, Son, Brother

In Memory of Lance and Laura Garten

In Memory of Michael Omar Surrisi, Forever Young

In Memory of Sergeant Elly Angelene Magruder

Kirksville Leadership Institute and Home Depot

L.E. & Vera K. Montgomery and Family

Lee's Summit Medical Center

Mo Valley Community Action Agency Chariton County Team

Perryville High School FCCLA

Plattsburg Chamber of Commerce

Priority Physical Therapy

Rankin Landscaping and Maintenance

Shome's Black and Tans

Southridge Baptist Church

Student Athletic Training Association

TBHS Chapter National Honor Society

The Hyatt Place

The World Is My Flower Garden

Unity Church of Peace

US 50 Cruisers

Thank You New Adopters!

MoDOT Using New Products to Salvage Highway Signs, Save Money

Vandals “tagging” signs with spray paint is costly for taxpayers and unsafe for motorists, so MoDOT is fighting back. Rather than replace defaced signs, MoDOT is now cleaning them when possible. The department is the first state in the nation to test various types of paint remover and put them to use on highway signs. Cleaning a sign rather than replacing it saves as much as \$1,000 depending on the sign’s size.

“We are always looking for ways to be more efficient,” said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. “These products provide a new avenue that will help us meet our five-year direction for cutting costs.”

While there are many paint removal products on the market, many of them will render a highway sign “dead,” meaning they strip away the materials that make the sign reflective at night. MoDOT performed extensive research and testing to find products that wouldn’t damage the sign’s reflectivity or leave a shadow where the spray paint or paintball mess was.

“We were delighted to find products already on the market that would clean the signs without hindering their visibility and readability,”

said Jen Harper, an organizational performance engineer with MoDOT.

To test the paint removers, MoDOT plastered all types and colors of highway signs with spray paint and paintballs, and then allowed the paint to dry under simulated weather conditions such as extreme heat and cold. The paint was then removed with the trial chemicals, and the sign was tested in a laboratory that replicates night-time driving conditions.

MoDOT crews recently put the products to work on several signs near LaMonte in Pettis County with positive results. The agency plans to share its findings with other states.

Incidents of vandals painting highway signs is growing, perhaps with the popularity of paintball as a sport. The problem isn’t restricted to rural areas, either. Even interstate signs have been targets.

“Every time we have to replace a vandalized sign, that means less money is going to fix our roads and bridges,” Keith said. “The destruction penalizes everyone who uses our highway system.”

A video showing how the paint removal products work is available online at www.modot.org. ■



Hannah Baalman, a 6-year-old 1st grader from Keytesville, won a new bicycle and helmet during the 2010 Missouri State Fair. Baalman's name was drawn from hundreds of entries after she completed a scavenger hunt in the MoDOT Highway Gardens during the 10 days of the fair. Cecil's Cyclery in Sedalia donated the bike, and MoDOT donated the helmet. This summer was the seventh year MoDOT hosted the State Fair scavenger hunt.

MoDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
Litter Cleanup



6,100 MILES
4,243 ADOPTERS

SAFETY TIP

Watch where you walk! We sometimes get so wrapped up in picking up trash we're not careful where we step. Be careful and avoid wash-outs caused from rains in the fall. Leaves often cover holes and ruts, so wear boots and step carefully!

Roadside Review is a quarterly newsletter published by the Maintenance unit of the Missouri Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups. After reading, please share this newsletter with others. Additional copies are available upon request.

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Stephen R. Miller
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Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



For more information about the Adopt-A-Highway program:

888 ASK MODOT
aah@modot.mo.gov
www.modot.org



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TALKIN' TRASH

MoDOT Keeps Billions of Pounds of Waste from Landfills

More than 8,417,020,000 total pounds of waste has either been recycled back into our roads or been kept from area landfills since 2005, thanks to MoDOT efforts.

"There's no reason to dump materials into our landfills that can be recycled," says Joe Schroer, MoDOT field materials engineer. "We embrace being green and we're getting better every day."

MoDOT has recycled 3.56 billion pounds of industrial waste from mines, steel furnaces and power plants, as well as shingles and tires over the past five years. Industrial waste is usually disposed of in landfills, but MoDOT has recycled every pound for future uses. Area landfill managers tell MoDOT that 3.56 billion pounds is the equivalent of 89,000 semi-truck loads that would fill the Empire State Building four times.

Adding to the grand total is reclaimed material. Many of the miles of pavement you drive on and projects you see across Missouri are made of recycled material; in fact, MoDOT has recycled 4.86 billion pounds of reclaimed material that's been used on construction projects since 2005.

MoDOT's environmental efforts continued to grow over the past five years with 2009 being the greenest. Last year, more than two billion pounds of waste from construction projects was recycled. In addition, 6.2 million pounds of waste material (paper, cardboard, aluminum, electronics) was recycled.

"MoDOT wants to be a leader for recycling, conserving and being environmentally aware," said Schroer. "We hope to increase our efforts in the future." ■